

I claim:

1. A plastic connector tool comprising:

a sleeve comprising a first end, a second end, a gripper channel that extends through the first and second ends and an external finger rest at the first end; and

a gripper slidably mounted in the gripper channel comprising a handle at a handle end, and two fingers at a fingers end that is distal from the handle end, wherein

the sleeve and the gripper are capable of sliding relative to each other such that when the handle is slid to the first end of the sleeve, the fingers project from the second end of the sleeve;

the handle is capable of sliding away from the first end of the sleeve to a sufficient degree for the fingers to be substantially drawn into the second end of the sleeve;

the fingers further comprise external stops that engage the second end of the sleeve to prevent the gripper from sliding through the sleeve;

the fingers form a connector slot capable of engaging a cable connector, and each finger further comprising an engaging lug that is capable of engaging a corresponding indent in the cable connector; and

when the cable connector is engaged in the connector slot and the fingers are substantially drawn into the sleeve, the connector is reversibly locked onto the connector tool.

2. A connector tool comprising:

a sleeve comprising a first end, a second end and a gripper channel that extends through the first and second ends; and

a gripper slidably mounted in the gripper channel comprising a handle at a handle end, and fingers at a fingers end that is distal from the handle end, wherein

the sleeve and the gripper are capable of sliding relative to each other such that when the handle is slid to the first end of the sleeve, the fingers project from the second end of the sleeve;

the handle is capable of sliding away from the first end of the sleeve to a sufficient degree for the fingers to be substantially drawn into the second end of the sleeve;

the fingers form a connector slot capable of engaging a cable connector; and

when the cable connector is engaged in the connector slot and the fingers are substantially drawn into the sleeve, the connector is reversibly locked onto the connector tool.

3. The connector tool according to Claim 2, wherein fingers form a substantially rectangular connector slot capable of engaging a substantially rectangular connector.

4. The connector tool according to Claim 2, wherein each of at least two opposing fingers comprise an engaging lug in the connector slot.

5. The connector tool according to Claim 2, wherein each of at least two opposing fingers comprise a non-slip grip in the connector slot.

6. The connector tool according to Claim 2, wherein the gripper further comprises a cable slot to accommodate a cable attached to the cable connector, when the cable connector is locked onto the connector tool.

7. The connector tool according to Claim 6, wherein the sleeve further comprises a cable channel to accommodate the cable attached to the cable connector, when the cable connector is locked onto the connector tool, such that there is sufficient overlap between the cable slot and the cable channel so that the cable can freely slide with the gripper as the gripper and the sleeve slide relative to each other.

8. The connector tool according to Claim 2, wherein each finger comprises an engagement lug at its end and the fingers form a connector slot that engages the connector by hooking the engagement lug around a distal corner of the connector.

9. The connector tool according to Claim 2, wherein the fingers form a substantially rounded connector slot capable of engaging a substantially rounded connector.

10. The connector tool according to Claim 2 that is made from plastic.

11. The connector tool according to Claim 2, wherein the gripper is tapered from a wider second end to a narrower first end, such that the fingers are gradually pinched together as they are drawn into the sleeve.

12. The connector tool according to Claim 2, wherein the fingers flex outward when projected from the sleeves, and are pinched inward by the sleeve as they are drawn into the sleeve.

13. The connector tool according to Claim 2, wherein the fingers do not flex outward until the connector is engaged in the connector slot.

14. The connector tool according to Claim 2, wherein the fingers do not flex outward, the connector fits loosely in the connector slot, and when the fingers with the connector are drawn into the sleeve, the combination of the fingers, the connector and the sleeve forms an interlocking engagement that reversibly locks the connector on to the connector tool.

15. The connector tool according to Claim 2, further comprising a finger rest at the first end of the sleeve.

16. A method of holding a cable having a connector comprising:

engaging the connector in a connector slot of a connector tool, wherein the connector tool comprises:

a sleeve comprising a first end, a second end and a gripper channel that extends through the first and second ends; and

a gripper slidably mounted in the gripper channel comprising a handle at a handle end, and fingers at a fingers end that is distal from the handle end, wherein

the sleeve and the gripper are capable of sliding relative to each other such that when the handle is slid to the first end of the sleeve, the fingers project from the second end of the sleeve;

the handle is capable of sliding away from the first end of the sleeve to a sufficient degree for the fingers to be substantially drawn into the second end of the sleeve; and

the fingers form the connector slot; and

drawing the fingers into the sleeve so that the connector is reversibly locked onto the connector tool.

17. The method according to Claim 16, further comprising unlocking the connector by projecting the connector and the fingers out of the sleeve, then disengaging the connector from the connector slot.

18. The method according to Claim 16, wherein each finger comprises an engagement lug in the connector slot, and the engagement lug are engaged by indents in the connector when the connector is engaged in the connector slot.

19. The method according to Claim 16, wherein an end of each finger comprises an engagement lug in the connector slot, and the engagement lugs hook around a distal corner of the connector when the connector is engaged in the connector slot.

20. The method according to Claim 16, wherein an end of each finger comprises a plurality of gripping ridges in the connector slot for engaging the connector frictionally.